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Generator program team recognized with IPP's Keystone Award



About 800 staff gathered June 13 in Bartels Hall for the ninth annual Infrastructure, Properties and Planning (IPP) Employee Celebration. The event highlights the contributions of staff who have gone “above and beyond expectations” during the past year.

The most prestigious award, the Keystone Award, was given to the generator program team: Dean Anderson, Jim Bovard and Joe Shields from Facilities Management; Chris Wayman from Facilities Engineering; Eric Featherson and Jessica Sczepanski, both electricians; and retirees Dave Hart and Allen Phelps, who were also recognized for their long-term commitment to the program.

This team maintains 92 emergency generators on the Ithaca campus and works to ensure the installation of new generator equipment meets university standards.

“Interruption of building power can mean failure for long-running research experiments involving equipment or impact to critical campus infrastructure in dining, community centers, or residence halls,” wrote Robert Murray, architectural engineer, in nominating the team, adding that the generator program team has earned recognition for their care and support of these university assets, and for providing a reliable source of backup power. “All members are passionate and efficient, and exemplify excellence,” he wrote.

Four Cornerstone Awards were presented:

- The Cornerstone Award for Effectiveness Improvement was given to Kevin Samson for his leadership of the elevator

program. All facets of this program, especially in regard to cost, service and communication, have improved, wrote Vincent Knapp, mechanical engineering section manager, whose nomination of Samson was seconded by Jim Gibbs, Facilities Management director.

- The Cornerstone Award for Distinction in Teamwork was awarded to the team that, for the past two years, managed the Lynah Rink roof: Aaron Debolt, Ethan Dennison, Josh Dennison, Joel Mashanic, Mark Watermen, Dan Jones, Chris Lampmen, Keith Walker, James Overhiser and Matthew Reiter. This team was nominated by Erik Grey for their efforts to ensure the integrity of the roof, even during the heavy snowfall of Storm Stella in March 2017.
- The Cornerstone Award for Dedication to Developing Others was given to three staff members – Kristi Cooley, Dan Klinger and Mike Baker – who with their can-do, positive, customer-focused attitude changed the culture and morale of their unit by streamlining their unit’s services and processes, providing more consistent and efficient operations, and elevating customer support and satisfaction.
- The Cornerstone Award for Campus or Community Service went to Sarah Zemanick, who has been called “a champion of sustainability both internal and external to Cornell.” Zemanick successfully protected carbon reduction efforts for Cornell and other organizations statewide by mobilizing a statewide coalition to ensure the preservation of renewable energy credit standards. Zemanick is highly regarded by student leaders, faculty and civic leaders in Tompkins County and Albany, and was nominated for this award by staff from Cornell’s Energy and Sustainability, Facilities Engineering and University Relations offices.

Named in honor of Steve Wright, former director of Planning, Design and Construction and longtime champion of diversity and inclusion, the Steve Wright Bridge Award was presented to Debra Howell, director of IPP information and technology. Howell, who is an active member of the IPP Diversity Council, was pivotal in creation of the IT Career Framework Committee to encourage self-development and leadership; facilitated Cornell’s Emerging Leaders Program and is a lead facilitator for many Turning Point programs each year; started the “IT Reads” program, which develops skills through shared reading thought exchange; and chaired and led the IPP United Way committee for the past two years. Most recently, she was elected the information officer on the executive board for the New York State Chapter of the American Council on Education Women’s Network.

The event also celebrated all members of IPP and their contributions to the mission of Cornell. Jim Kazda, senior director of Contract Colleges Facilities and the campus manager, recognized seven IPP staff members who received degrees and several outstanding students and faculty whose achievements and innovations took place in buildings maintained by IPP staff. He also highlighted major events – such as Dragon Day, Commencement and Reunion – the work of Cornell Cooperative Extension and the radical collaborations that depend upon the work of IPP staff. “If we take pride in our work and provide support for all the folks around us, we will all have a significant role in all that is done at this university – teaching, research and extension,” he said.

Also recognized was IPP’s Rewards and Recognition Committee, which organized this awards event: Dan Schied, Donna-Marie Parker, Dustin Darnell, Erik Eshelman, Jean Curran, Julie Parsons, Kristin Gutenberger, Sue Kern Wilkins, Tom King, Vicki Davis, Laurie Coffin and Michele Johnson.

Bill Sitzabee, interim vice president for IPP, who will leave in July to assume a post at Pennsylvania State University, opened the event and thanked the “entire IPP staff” for the “chance to work with some of the greatest folks here at Cornell.”

VP for infrastructure, properties and planning appointed

Frederick Burgess, recently the commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Washington, D.C., has been named vice president for infrastructure, properties and planning (IPP) at Cornell. The appointment, effective Sept. 1, was made by Joanne DeStefano, executive vice president and chief financial officer, and approved by the Executive Committee of the Cornell Board of Trustees June 15.

“Rick brings to Cornell nearly 25 years of managing complex facilities, contracts and public works, most recently as the senior

executive in charge of planning, building and maintaining the facilities for eight naval bases in the D.C. area,” said DeStefano. “His extensive experience in the areas of energy, sustainability, engineering, real estate and technology make him a natural fit to meet the dynamic needs of the university.”

Cornell’s vice president for IPP leads a team of more than 1,000 employees in planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of university buildings, grounds and utilities infrastructure for the Ithaca campus, including the university’s electricity, steam, chilled water and potable water systems; as well as real estate, the Campus Sustainability Office, campus mail, and commuter, fleet and parking services. The vice president also advises on Cornell Tech campus development and construction contracting.

In his most recent assignment, Burgess supervised planning and design of capital projects, construction management and quality assurance, environmental compliance and remediation, facilities maintenance, and transportation and utilities services for Navy, Marine Corps and joint bases. He provided support for designing replacement facilities for Air Force One, recapitalizing facilities at Camp David, and overseeing transportation for the 2017 presidential inauguration.

Burgess has a master’s degree in civil engineering and is a licensed professional engineer and certified energy manager.

“In my three decades in the Navy, I had work that I enjoy, people that I enjoyed working with and a clear sense of mission,” Burgess said. “I know this will continue in the work at Cornell. I am impressed by the commitment and quality of the IPP team and look forward to working with them.”

Burgess said he is familiar with the challenges presented by Cornell’s mix of historic and modern architectural styles, as he faced similar situations in renovating major academic facilities at the United States Naval Academy.

“Rick brings to the position tremendous experience working in a similarly complex institution and historic campus with a strategic outlook toward addressing the ongoing stewardship of the university,” said Cornell trustee Susan Rodriguez, who was a member of the search committee.

Burgess said: “I look forward to the opportunity to help translate the vision of Cornell’s future into spaces and facilities that are cost-effective, fit within Cornell’s current environment, and balance between refurbishing the old and building new. I’m also looking forward to being a good partner with my colleagues across campus, planning for their immediate and long-term needs and bringing value to Cornell.”

Said Cornell trustee Armando Olivera, also a member of the search committee: “Rick was chosen because he brings a great deal of experience in the areas where we need to focus during the next decade, particularly in addressing the maintenance issues of our buildings and overseeing any new construction. He also demonstrated good interpersonal skills, which I believe will make him a good fit with Cornell and a good member of the Ithaca community.”

Burgess said he and his wife, Trish, a physical therapist, are looking forward to being part of the Ithaca community. They will move to Ithaca with their youngest son, a rising high school junior. The Burgesses also have two older daughters and an older son.

James T. Kazda, director of contract college facilities, will serve as interim vice president starting July 17, when the current interim vice president, Bill Sitzabee, leaves Cornell to assume a post at Pennsylvania State University.

One thousand attend annual Supplier Show

More than 1,000 attended the 2017 annual supplier show June 1 in Barton Hall, hosted by Procurement and Payment Services. The event provided an opportunity for members of the Cornell community to meet Cornell’s contract suppliers, learn about their products and services, and hear about the savings and efficiencies they provide – as well as win door prizes.

Nearly 100 suppliers were on hand, from printers and car dealerships, to health care, electrical, laboratory and business

suppliers; food vendors, caterers and grocers; and communications, technology and energy providers. Many provided give-aways and demonstrations as well as information.

The day preceding the show, the sixth annual Supplier Recognition Awards were presented to acknowledge off-campus suppliers who have performed best in the areas of product and service quality, pricing, order fulfillment, customer satisfaction and social responsibility.

Top performers for the Supplier Recognition Awards for 2017 were: Airgas USA LLC; Casella Waste Systems; Friedman Electric Supply; Laboratory Products Sales; Ricoh; Sedgwick Business Interiors; The Computing Center; Verizon Wireless; and VWR. Receiving honorable mention were: CDWG; Eagle Envelope Company; Grainger; Krackeler Scientific Inc.; Maines Paper & Food Service Inc.; and W.B. Mason.

Participating in the Supplier Show were such Cornell departments as Fleet Services, Print Services, CIT Custom Development, R5 Operations, the Cornell Store, Campus to Campus Bus, IT Training, Mail Services, Energy and Sustainability, the Statler Hotel – and Procurement and Payment Services.

For more information, including discounts available to Cornell employees with a valid Cornell ID card, see the [Procurement and Payment Services](#) web pages.

IPP Information Technology holds computers intensive week

May 22-26 was Spring Intensives week for the [New Roots Charter School](#), a time when students take a break from the academic course load to focus their energy on a singular topic of interest. Ten students from New Roots spent a week with Infrastructure Properties and Planning (IPP) IT staff for a course exploring “Computers: Break, Make and Take!”

Representing IPP IT were Debra Howell, Kristi Cooley, Dan Klinger, Mike Baker, Tom Davies and Gabriel Goodwin. They created a course for students that began with dismantling computers to better understand how they work from the inside out, and concluded with the hands-on satisfaction of students making their own laptops from recycled equipment to take home.

Throughout the program, students were engaged in discussions on innovation and the latest tech news, and they visited several Cornell facilities to learn how computers are used for research, education and day-to-day work. These included Cornell server-farm tours with Rick Polcaro, Cornell Information Technologies (CIT) area manager, and Resa Reynolds, assistant director, Center for Advanced Computing systems and operations; utilities tours with Josh LaPenna, IPP central energy plant manager; visiting Cornell University Police dispatch and vehicles with Sergeant Steve Shirley and Officer Blair MacDonald; a firsthand look at Transportation Services and the Campus-to-Campus bus fleet with Carl Hoaglin Jr., assistant director, east campus service center operations; and a tour of the Cornell Dairy plant, led by Deanna Simons, quality manager and academic program coordinator. Notably, students were also impressed with the Cornell dining hall experience, a winner in the [Princeton Review rankings for Best Campus Food](#).

Gabriel Goodwin, IPP systems administrator, enjoyed spending the week with students. “Their excitement about seeing and working on things that we take for granted is infectious,” he said. Students frequently reciprocated the positive vibe with friendly shouts of “Hey, Gabe!”

The IPP IT team is already looking forward to next year. Sharing in that sentiment, students indicated that the highlight of the program was the deep level of engagement between them and staff members. “This was the best thing ever,” said students. The experience was “amazing and conducive to learning.”

Debra Howell is the director of IPP information and technology.

Workday to replace Kronos this fall

The university will roll out a new time-and-attendance system in fall 2017 to replace Kronos – the system currently used by approximately 12,000 nonexempt, biweekly staff and student employees to manage time worked and time off. The new Workday Time Tracking (WDTT) time and attendance system is part of the larger Workday system that manages a variety of employee information, such as benefit elections, pay slips, tax information, exempt employees' time off and internal job postings.

As part of this effort, all Kronos time clocks will be replaced by Accu-Time Systems (ATS) time clocks.

“Workday’s capabilities have continued to expand and evolve since we implemented the system nearly four years ago,” said Seth Brahler, senior director for human resources information systems, and co-director and steering committee chair of the WDTT implementation team that includes members from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Division of Financial Affairs, Cornell Information Technologies, Division of Human Resources and the College of Arts and Sciences. “Each time a new feature comes out, we look at our campus needs to determine if that feature is the best choice for our workforce. Workday Time Tracking has capabilities that exceed those of our current Kronos system and will streamline the time-tracking process for both heavy and intermittent users.”

The WDTT system has a familiar look and feel that aligns with the Workday views employees see during onboarding, performance reviews and benefits open enrollment.

Improved features for hourly employees include:

- The ability to request time off in the future and to project time off balances
- One timecard for all positions held on campus
- A one-stop shop for all of your personal data, benefits and time-and-attendance information.

Additional benefits for managers include:

- One system for your entire team, including a monthly calendar view of all requested and approved time off
- The ability to approve multiple time off requests all at once
- Notifications for unapproved time entries
- The ability to assign a back-up designee to approve time cards and time off requests.

Tutorials for employees and supervisors will be available on the [Workday Time Tracking website](#) prior to launch, as well as project rollout updates and FAQs.

“We recognize that the fall can be a busy time for some of our employees, and that technology changes can be stressful,” said Phil Turke, director of university payroll and co-project director and steering committee chair with Brahler. “We’ll do everything in our power to ensure that everyone – from the employees clocking in every day, to the managers and reps approving time – feels supported during this transition.”

Gary Cremeens on the move with sustainability efforts

Gary Cremeens, project associate in Transportation Services focusing on social media and sustainability in transportation demand management (TDM), has recently been named a finalist for a national excellence in advocacy award from the Association for Commuter Transportation. Over the winter, he was selected by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education to co-present a [national webinar](#) for “Moving the Needle on Commute Mode through TDM,” June 28, 3-4:30 p.m. EDT.

That webinar will be free and open to the public. Cremeens will join TDM professionals Sara Hendricks, senior research associate, University of South Florida, and Brian Shaw, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, Stanford University, in discussing how university administrative staff and faculty can partner through research to better understand what motivates people to change their travel behavior; how sustainable transportation modes can be improved to better meet the commuting needs of students and employees; how social media communications can improve usage of these modes, and how commitment to sustainable transportation modes can be increased by engaging with local government and developing an award-winning campus master plan.

Cremeens has become known for his marketing, community collaboration and outreach efforts to create communication efficiencies, improve public relations and more broadly spread the message about TDM. In a little under a year, he has increased new users on Cornell's rideshare platform by 55 percent. He also shares information on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, where he has a combined following of just over 7,000. For more information on why he advocates using numerous social media platforms to broaden engagement and some of Cremeen's upcoming projects, see his [LinkedIn article](#).

Staff Development Day July 12

Save the Date! This year's Staff Development Day will be held July 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Physical Sciences Building.

The workshops and exhibits at Staff Development Day, offered at no cost, give Cornell employees opportunities to invest in their personal and professional growth and well-being. The day's events will center on various aspects of education exploration, professional development, wellness and community in the workplace.

Last year's workshops included topics such as "How to Get a Degree While Working," "Time-Saving Microsoft Outlook Tips, Tricks and Shortcuts," "The Art of Collaboration: Box Can Help!" and "How To Include More Wellness Activities During the Work Day."

The Resource Showcase will be held 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Physical Sciences Building, Clark Atrium. Workshops will be held in concurrent sessions throughout the day, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

'Garrett's Bow' garners writing award for athletics' Greco

"A chance meeting between the Cornell women's rowing team and then President-elect Elizabeth Garrett established an instant connection for the students who met her, one that lasted through Garrett's inauguration and her untimely death, and continues still..."

In the Sept. 19, 2016, article "[Garrett's Bow](#)," Julie Greco, Cornell deputy director of athletic communications, looks back to April 2015, when Garrett met the women's rowing team in the Detroit airport on their way home from the Clemson Invitational competition. Greco describes the bond created between the team members and Cornell's first female president, and looks ahead to the dedication of a new racing shell in Garrett's honor. The President Elizabeth Garrett has since been used by the varsity and second varsity eight.

Greco recently received the national 2017 Fred Stabley Sr. Writing Contest award for event coverage from the College Sports Information Directors of America for "Garrett's Bow." Entries to this contest are judged on "overall writing style, correct use of English, inventiveness, written presentation and the ease with which the reader acquires the information."
